

# Fiscal Year 2008 Boat Fee Revenues and Expenditures Report



Department of Natural Resources  
Conservation and Recreation Division  
December 31, 2008  
Richard A. Leopold, Director



## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

In 2005, in order to provide for continued outreach and resources to the citizens of Iowa, the Iowa General Assembly amended Iowa Code Chapter 462A.52 to increase boat registration fees for all types of watercraft, to change the registration cycle, and to begin requiring the Iowa Department of Natural Resources (DNR) to report on increased revenues and how they are expended until December 31, 2013. This is the second such annual report.

The increased fees are required to be used to control the spread of aquatic invasive species, the administration of enforcement of navigation laws and for water safety upon the inland waters of the state. The mandate required the Department to submit a report to the General Assembly by December 31 of each year beginning in 2007. It was directed that the report contain, but is not limited to, summarizing the activities of the Department on:

1. Administering and enforcing programs to control aquatic invasive species
2. Administering and enforcing navigation laws and water safety
3. Amount of revenues collected as a result of fee increases
4. Detail of how the revenues were expended
5. Amount and source of all other funds expended
6. Detail of how the funds were expended
7. The amount and source of other funds expended for the above purposes.

### **Revenues: Comparisons and projections**

When boat fees were increased in the 2005 legislative session, the registration period also was changed from two years to three years. For planning purposes, the Iowa Department of Natural Resources must now plan revenues over three years.

Table 1

<b>Previous Revenues Under Two-year Registration Periods</b>				
	<b>FY03</b>	<b>FY04</b>	<b>FY05</b>	<b>FY06</b>
Boat fees	\$2,563,493	\$372,481	\$2,611,295	\$387,908
Federal match	\$1,298,443	\$1,296,070	\$1,411,585	\$1,533,266
<b>TOTAL REVENUES</b>	<b>\$3,861,936</b>	<b>\$1,668,551</b>	<b>\$4,022,880</b>	<b>\$1,921,174</b>

Boat fees generated an average of \$1,483,794 per year (see Table 1) during the last four years of the two-year registration cycle. With fee increases and one year of actual record,

boat fees are expected to average \$2,343,204 per year (see Table 2) under the three-year registration cycle.

Table 2

<b>Current / Projected Revenues Under Three-year Registration Periods</b>				
	<b>FY 07 (Collected)</b>	<b>FY 08 (Collected)</b>	<b>FY 09 (Projected)</b>	<b>3-Year Projected Revenues</b>
Boat fees	\$6,229,611	\$812,672	\$400,000	\$7,442,283
Federal match	\$1,809,560	\$2,033,485	\$1,805,831	\$5,648,876
<b>TOTAL REVENUES</b>	<b>\$8,039,171</b>	<b>\$2,846,156</b>	<b>\$2,205,831</b>	<b>\$13,091,159</b>

With two years of record of annual actual increase in boat fees, the average increase is projected to be \$996,967 in additional state revenue per year, for a total of \$4,363,720 million available to expend per year in state and federal monies. The federal funding is expected to be status quo over the next year. Federal funds include the safety and education portion and motorboat access portion from the Federal Aid in Sport Fish Restoration program, and Aquatic Invasive Species matching funds.

**Expenditures: Comparisons and projections**

For the purposes of this report, the final year under the previous fee structure, fiscal year 2006, will be the baseline year to measure future years' expenditures. The state salary adjustment each year will be added to the baseline figure, so current programs remain sustainable.

Table 3

<b>General Expenditure Categories</b>			
	<b>FY 06</b>	<b>FY 07</b>	<b>FY 08</b>
Printing	\$60,274	\$232,429	\$68,658
Boat Safety	\$1,366,842	\$1,659,780	\$2,247,142
Boat infrastructure maintenance/mgt	\$1,015,873	\$1,053,340	\$1,206,441
Aquatic Invasive Species	\$164,556	\$333,818	\$578,522
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURES</b>	<b>\$2,607,545</b>	<b>\$3,279,367</b>	<b>\$4,100,763</b>

Table 4

<b>Expenditure Comparison: FY06 (baseline) to FY08</b>			
	<b>FY06</b>	<b>FY08</b>	<b>Increase over baseline year</b>
Aquatic Invasive Species program	\$164,556	\$578,522	\$413,966
<b>Expanded Enforcement &amp; Safety programs</b>			
Water Patrol Officers (temporary/seasonal)	\$94,390	\$200,370	\$105,980
Patrol Boats	\$65,182	\$26,740	(\$38,442)
Boater Education program	\$0	\$103,641	\$103,641
Water Trails & Dam Public program	\$10,410	\$135,621	\$125,211
Baseline enforcement and safety devoted to boating and navigation	\$1,196,860	\$1,780,770	\$583,910
*Baseline for boating recreation and safety infrastructure maintenance and management	\$1,015,873	\$1,206,441	\$190,568
Printing expenditures	\$60,274	\$68,658	\$8,384
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$2,607,545</b>	<b>\$4,127,503</b>	<b>\$1,493,218</b>

\* NOTE: Neither the Law Enforcement Bureau nor the Fisheries Bureau have land management or maintenance capacity. The Wildlife Bureau manages and maintains state fishing access areas, boat ramps, and docks in cooperation with the other bureaus. This increased amount is due to increased federal dollars. Note that 75% of the total is Motorboat Access federal funds.

More detailed reporting of program-level expenses follow in this report.

## Aquatic Invasive Species Expenditures

The Iowa Department of Natural Resources Aquatic Invasive Species Program (DNR-AIS) is responsible for monitoring and managing aquatic invasive species (AIS) in Iowa.



Goals of the DNR-AIS as stated in the “Plan for the Management of Aquatic Nuisance Species in Iowa” are:

- I. Minimize the risk of further introductions of AIS into the state of Iowa.
- II. Limit the spread of established populations of AIS into uninfested waters in Iowa.
- III. Eradicate or control to a minimum level of impact the harmful ecological, economic, social, and public health impacts resulting from infestations of AIS in Iowa.

Priority AIS in Iowa include Eurasian watermilfoil (*Myriophyllum spicatum*), zebra mussels (*Dreissena polymorpha*), bighead carp (*Hypophthalmichthys nobilis*), silver carp (*Hypophthalmichthys molitrix*), brittle naiad (*Najas minor*), and purple loosestrife (*Lythrum salicaria*).

Actions utilized to detect, manage, and prevent the introduction and spread of AIS in Iowa in FY08 included employing seasonal staff, developing partnerships to coordinate AIS activities, increasing public awareness of AIS, managing AIS infestations, and monitoring for early detection of AIS. Major accomplishments included the following.

- Employed 4 seasonal Natural Resources Aides and 5 summer Water Patrol Officers
- Conducted 3,145 watercraft inspections reaching over 9,100 people
- Supported 14 partnerships and cooperative projects
- Distributed brochures, identifications cards, posters, and regulations booklets statewide
- Leased 9 billboards with AIS prevention messages on interstate and state highways
- Sent AIS mailing to over 265,000 registered boat owners and follow-up survey to 5,000
- Reached statewide audiences regarding AIS prevention with news releases, radio and television interviews, and presentations
- Posted new AIS posters at public boat accesses in Dickinson County
- Supported volunteer watercraft inspection program in Dickinson County
- Chemically treated 5 waterbodies with Eurasian watermilfoil or brittle naiad
- Surveyed vegetation in 78 waterbodies
- Posted signs at accesses of waterbodies infested with AIS
- Surveyed zebra mussels in Clear Lake and Lake Rathbun

- Placed zebra mussel veligers settlement samplers in Clear Lake, Lake Delhi, Lake Rathbun, Spirit Lake, East Okoboji Lake, and West Okoboji Lake
- Sampled water for zebra mussel veligers in Clear Lake and the Mississippi, Wapsipinicon, Maquoketa, Cedar, and Iowa Rivers
- Supported Iowa State University study of Clear Lake
- Purchased equipment for DNR Fisheries management stations to prevent the spread of AIS during operations and aid in early detection of AIS in Iowa waterbodies
- Completed Incident Command System (ICS) training

### Aquatic Invasive Species Program Personnel and Activities



A Natural Resources Biologist has coordinated the DNR-AIS since 2000, and a permanent, full-time Natural Resources Technician was added in October 2006. During the summer of 2008, the equivalent of 5 Water Patrol Officers and 2 Natural Resources Aides conducted watercraft inspections and 2 Natural Resources Aides surveyed waterbodies for AIS across the state. Prior to the summer of 2007, the DNR-AIS only hired 2-3 seasonal

employees who split their time between watercraft inspections and AIS surveys. Watercraft inspectors discussed inspecting watercraft for AIS with operators and collected information on AIS presence and location, watercraft type and state of registration, number of people, last and next waterbody visited, and operator familiarity with Eurasian watermilfoil, zebra mussels, Asian carp, and Iowa’s aquatic invasive species law. Trailer stickers reminding boaters to prevent the spread of AIS were given to each operator after inspection. The table below summarizes the watercraft inspection effort of the DNR-AIS during recent summers.



Watercraft Inspection Efforts				
		2006	2007	2008
Seasonal Employees		3 part-time	7 full-time	7 full-time
Watercraft Inspected		791	2,785	3,145
Personal Contacts		2,350	7,400	9,100
Waterbodies with Inspections		16	35	25

DNR-AIS staff supported several partnerships and working groups in FY08:

- Aquatic Nuisance Species (ANS) Task Force
- Mississippi River Basin Panel on ANS (Co-Chair)
- Missouri River ANS Work Group

- Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies Invasive Species Committee
- Midwest Invasive Plant Network (Education Committee member)
- Heart of Iowa Cooperative Weed Management Area (Steering Committee member)
- Incident Command System for AIS Mock Exercise (Planning Committee)
- Adaptive Management of Invasive Species Workshop (Planning Committee)
- VHS Agency Workshop
- Mississippi Interstate Cooperative Resource Association
- Mississippi River Mussel Coordination Team and Zebra Mussel Control Subgroup
- Iowa Wildlife Action Plan Wildlife Habitat Working Group
- Diversity Action Taskforce
- Iowa Chapter of the American Fisheries Society

During the summer of 2008, the DNR-AIS partnered with the Iowa Great Lakes Water Safety Council and the lake protective associations on a volunteer program to assist DNR staff in conducting watercraft inspections at boat ramps on Dickinson County lakes. The DNR-AIS provided training, identification vests, clipboards, brochures, trailer stickers, and report forms for the volunteers. Each lake protective association appointed a lake coordinator for volunteers to contact to schedule their times and locations to optimize inspection effort.

DNR-AIS staff completed three Incident Command System courses in FY08: Introduction to the Incident Command System (ICS 100), ICS for Single Resources and Initial Action Incidents (ICS 200), National Incident Management System (NIMS), An Introduction (ICS 700).



*Invasive silver carp can become a serious problem for recreation, damaging economic potential of lakes & rivers.*

## **Aquatic Invasive Species Outreach Materials**

The DNR-AIS has different types of outreach materials targeting water recreationists in Iowa. These informational materials were distributed statewide during watercraft inspections, to all Iowa DNR Fisheries regional and field offices, during the Iowa State Fair, at state and county parks and nature centers, and at presentations and field days.

- Help Stop Aquatic Hitchhikers brochure
- Zap the Zebra brochure
- AIS identification cards
- Keep a Lookout for New Invasive Aquatic Plants in the Midwest flyer
- Don't Dump Your Bait posters
- 2008 Iowa Fishing Regulations booklet
- Handbook of Iowa Boating Laws and Responsibilities

The DNR-AIS also provided information through the Iowa DNR website and 9 billboards posted along interstate and state highways near high use lakes in Iowa. The 9 billboards leased in 2008 were an increase over the 2 that had been leased prior to 2007 and the 5 leased in 2007.

Statewide audiences were targeted with news releases regarding two boats with zebra mussels attached transported to Lake Rathbun, volunteer opportunities within the Iowa DNR, and before the July 4<sup>th</sup> holiday. DNR-AIS staff was also interviewed for numerous radio programs and newspaper articles regarding AIS identification and prevention.

DNR-AIS staff gave presentations about AIS in a variety of settings in FY08, including:

- Natural Resources Commission Tour
- Iowa/Dakota Chapters of the American Fisheries Society
- Encounter Center (Sioux City) Invasive Species Panel
- Iowa DNR Fisheries Bureau Annual Statewide Meeting
- Commercial Pesticide Applicators Continuing Education
- Missouri River AIS Work Group
- Indian Hills Community College Environmental Ecology Class
- Coon Rapids High School Environmental Science Class
- Iowa DNR Law Enforcement Water Patrol Officer Training
- Iowa Great Lakes Water Volunteer Training
- Taking the Road Less Traveled: A Career Conference for Girls
- Outdoor Journey for Girls
- Johnson County Invasive Species Field Day

New posters incorporating the increased \$500 fine for violating the aquatic invasive species law were posted in kiosks at boat accesses in Dickinson County in 2008.

A mailer highlighting the impacts of zebra mussels and steps for boaters to take to prevent the spread of AIS was sent to all (over 265,000) registered boat owners in Iowa in June 2008. A tear-off postcard was included with the mailer to gauge readership and enter respondents into a drawing for a power washer. About 22,000 postcards were returned, which is a very good response rate for a non-postage paid survey. A follow-up survey was mailed to 5,000 random boat owners in August 2008. Questions asked will help the DNR-AIS understand behaviors of boaters and identify the best outreach methods to target boaters. Results will be included in next year's report.

## **Aquatic Invasive Species Management and Monitoring**

DNR Fisheries staff cooperated with DNR-AIS staff to chemically treat 5 Eurasian watermilfoil (EWM) and brittle naiad (BN) infestations in 2008.

- Meier Wildlife Management Area Pond (Hardin County), EWM
- Sportsman's Park Ponds (Palo Alto County), EWM
- Dog Creek Lake (O'Brien County), BN
- Little Sioux Park Lake (Woodbury County), BN
- Yellow Smoke Lake (Crawford County), BN

Natural Resource Aides surveyed aquatic vegetation in 78 Iowa waterbodies in 2008 to monitor for new AIS infestations. Species lists and aquatic vegetation maps were completed for each waterbody surveyed. Fisheries and wildlife biologists and county conservation board personnel also monitored vegetation in the waterbodies in their areas during management activities. Three new infestations of Eurasian watermilfoil and 3 new infestations of brittle naiad were discovered in Iowa in 2008.

- Floyd County Conservation Board Pond (Floyd County), EWM
- Fogle Lake (Ringgold County), EWM
- Percival Lake (Fremont County), EWM
- Mile Hill Lake (Mills County), BN
- Mt. Vernon Quarry (Linn County), BN
- Murphy Lake (Linn County), BN

The table below summarizes the monitoring during recent summers.

Vegetation Monitoring and Treatment Efforts of the DNR-AIS				
		2006	2007	2008
Seasonal Employees		3 part-time	2 full-time	2 full-time
Waterbodies Surveyed		65	100	78
Waterbodies Treated		12	7	5

Signs were posted at all AIS-infested waterbodies alerting the public about the species present and how to prevent its spread. Eurasian watermilfoil has been identified in 36 waterbodies in Iowa since 1993, and brittle naiad has been identified in 37 waterbodies since 2003.

Iowa has two interior lakes with known infestations of zebra mussels: Clear Lake (Cerro Gordo County) and Lake Delhi (Delaware County). Zebra mussels were first discovered in Clear Lake in 2005. DNR-AIS and DNR Fisheries staff conducted a survey for adult zebra mussels in Clear Lake in August 2007. Rocks at selected areas around the lake were removed and visually inspected for zebra mussels. A total of about 200 adult and thousands of juvenile zebra mussels were counted on rocks throughout the lake during the survey. This compares to a total of about 12 zebra mussels that were found at scattered locations during the same survey in 2006. Zebra mussel veliger settlement samplers were placed in the lake to help determine zebra mussel population size and distribution. Docks, boat hoists, buoys, and other structures were also visually inspected for zebra mussels as they were removed from the lake during late summer and fall 2007. Juvenile zebra mussels were observed on most structures.

Zebra mussels were first discovered in Lake Delhi in 2006. Their population was well-established by the time they were reported. An adult survey was not conducted in FY08. Zebra mussel veliger settlement samplers were placed in the lake and upstream in the Maquoketa River to help determine distribution; however, high water displaced most of the samplers.

In October 2007, zebra mussels were discovered on a boat that had been transported from the Mississippi River and moored at a marina on Lake Rathbun (Appanoose County) since late June. No zebra mussels were found in the lake. In May 2008, a boat was transported from Lake Ponchartrain, Louisiana, to Lake Rathbun with zebra mussels attached to it. The boat was stopped from launching by its new owner who had read information on zebra mussels that was distributed around the lake after the first incident. Zebra mussel veliger settlement samplers were placed around Lake Rathbun in spring 2008 to help determine if a reproducing population of zebra mussels is present in the lake.

Zebra mussel veligers settlement samplers were placed throughout Spirit Lake, East Okoboji Lake, and West Okoboji Lake as an early detection mechanism in the event that zebra mussels are introduced into those Dickinson County waterbodies.



The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Minnesota DNR, Wisconsin DNR, Illinois DNR, Iowa DNR and National Park Service staff collected zebra mussel veliger samples from the Upper Mississippi River and selected tributaries during July and August 2007 to monitor trends in abundance and peak veliger production. In Iowa, DNR staff collected samples below Lock and Dam 10 through 19 and from the Maquoketa, Wapsipinicon, Iowa, and Cedar Rivers. Lake Delhi on the Maquoketa River is the only Mississippi River tributary in Iowa with a known zebra mussel infestation. The Maquoketa River samples show peak veliger abundance in August comparable to the highest numbers observed below the Mississippi River locks and dams.

Bighead carp have been reported throughout southern Iowa on small tributaries of both the Mississippi and Missouri Rivers. New locations reported in FY08 were below Prairie Rose Lake (Shelby County), a tributary to the East Branch West Nishnabotna River, and Lake Red Rock (Marion County). Silver carp had only been sampled in the Missouri River, Mississippi River below Lock and Dam 19, and Des Moines River below the Ottumwa dam until October 2007 when they were identified in the Chariton River below Lake Rathbun. The flooding during the summer of 2008 contributed to their spread. Silver carp are now found in the Big Sioux River, Mississippi River up to Pool 18, and Des Moines River as far upstream as the Red Rock dam.

Iowa State University began a water quality and fisheries study for Clear Lake in 2007 that includes monitoring zebra mussel veliger and adult densities and distribution. The DNR-AIS Program agreed to provide \$10,000 annually for this 4-year project that is also being supported by DNR lake restoration and water quality monitoring funds.

Sixty hoop and 40 fyke nets were purchased for six fisheries management stations with known AIS infestations within their districts. These nets provide a second set of sampling gear for the stations so one set can be cleaned and dried completely before being used in another waterbody. Seven heated power washers were purchased and distributed to seven fisheries management stations to aid in cleaning boats and equipment to prevent the spread of AIS during daily operations. Two cross-polarized light microscopes were purchased and set-up in the Boone AIS Office and Rathbun Fish Hatchery to analyze water samples for the presence of zebra mussel veligers.

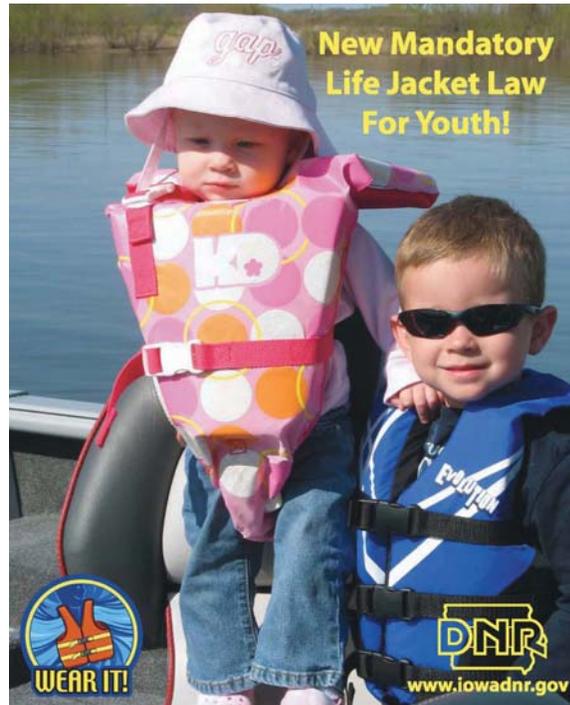
<b>Aquatic Invasive Species Expenditures</b>			
	<b>FY06</b>	<b>FY07</b>	<b>FY08</b>
Personnel (includes Fisheries staff time)	\$85,234	\$165,672	\$205,789
Travel Expenses	\$4,915	\$12,962	\$8,992
State Vehicle Operation and Depreciation	\$3,281	\$6,230	\$35,268
Office Supplies (includes boat trailer stickers)	\$399	\$4,522	\$3,356
Facility Maintenance Supplies	\$26	\$722	\$5,890
Equipment Maintenance Supplies	\$2,936	\$9,802	\$7,982
Ag Supplies (herbicides)	\$42,751	\$40,130	\$54,976
Other Supplies (plant identification books)	\$100	\$755	\$0
Printing (signs, posters, brochures, mailer)	\$477	\$16,941	\$30,457
Uniforms (includes volunteer vests)	\$455	\$1,511	\$1,243
Postage	\$536	\$183	\$57,934
Communications	\$651	\$566	\$389
Professional Services (ISU Clear Lake study)	\$0	\$0	\$9,675
Outside Services	\$595	\$6,463	\$107
Advertising and Publishing (billboards)	\$11,390	\$32,302	\$38,520
Reimbursement	\$0	\$166	\$22
Equipment (includes microscopes, power washers)	\$1,042	\$13,331	\$90,435
Indirects	\$9,768	\$17,561	\$27,535
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$164,556</b>	<b>\$333,818</b>	<b>\$578,522</b>

# Boating Navigation Enforcement and Water Safety Expenditures

## Seasonal Water Patrol Officers (WPO) Program

The Department receives approximately 100 applications each year from potential candidates wanting to work for the Iowa DNR and be a part of the seasonal water patrol officer (WPO) program. The WPO program has been in effect since the 1980s and allows individuals the opportunity to experience working for the Law Enforcement Bureau while performing on-the-water education and navigation enforcement for Iowa's waterways.

The WPO program is an essential tool because it added 42 seasonal employees to the approximately 80 full-time officers assigned to Iowa's 99 counties. It also enables the Department to hire quality candidates from the program as full-time officers. Currently almost half of our Conservation Officers started their careers as seasonal water patrol officers.



### Effective May 10, 2008:

A person shall not operate a vessel in Iowa unless every person on board the vessel who is age 12 and under is wearing a U.S. Coast Guard approved life jacket. A life jacket must be worn when the vessel is "underway." "Underway" means when a vessel is not at anchor, tied to a dock or the bank/shore, or aground.

A child age 12 and under in an enclosed cabin, below deck, or aboard a commercial vessel with a capacity of 25 persons or more is exempt.

## Seasonal Water Patrol Program Statistics

Year/ District	Number of Water Patrol Officers	Contacts	Citations
<b>2006</b>			
1	14	18,029	438
2	3	3,447	165
3	1	1,653	53
4	4	4,964	313
5	3	3,191	132
6	4	6,234	296
<i>totals</i>	29	37,518	1,397
<b>2007</b>			
1	14	18,155	544
2	6	6,221	234
3	3	4,568	140
4	6	7,219	300
5	3	3,157	145
6	5	10,017	357
<i>totals</i>	37*	49,332	1,720
<b>2008</b>			
1	17	11,413	453
2	7	10,162	196
3	3	2,548	172
4	6	6,490	146
5	4	1,929	153
6	5	6,220	206
<i>totals</i>	42	38,762	1,326

\* The total number of water patrol officers (WPO) in the FY 07 expenditure report was in error, and has been corrected for FY 08.

Five additional water patrol officers were added in the 2008 boating season from the appropriated boater registration fee increases. The enhanced presence of enforcement by seasonal officers greatly benefits Iowans and allows for safer recreational opportunities.

### Water Patrol Officer Expenditures

	FY06	FY07	FY08
Salaries	\$51,422	\$149,367	\$168,946
Equipment	\$1,844	\$3,638	\$772
Meals & Lodging	\$6,369	\$12,336	\$6,468
Training	\$2,917	\$1,439	\$6,866
Fuel	\$31,838	\$32,483	\$18,748
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$94,390</b>	<b>\$199,263</b>	<b>\$200,370</b>

**DNR Patrol Boats**

The Law Enforcement Bureau divides the state into 6 districts and employs District Supervisors to manage each area. The supervisors determine specific needs when purchasing large patrol boats based on recreational opportunities, Water Patrol Officers and Law Enforcement Officers available in each district. The patrol boat models purchased vary greatly by make, size, functionality, and cost, based on the need of the district, in order to provide quality navigation enforcement and boating education in each area. Officers use several different types of vessels for navigation enforcement and boating education.



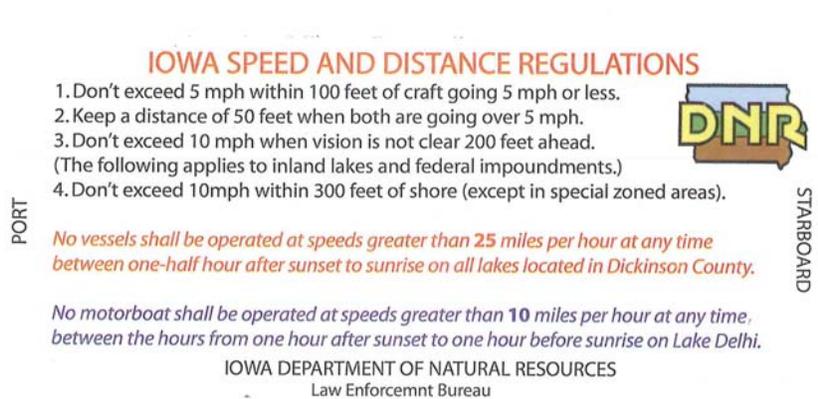
The Department currently has approximately 36 large patrol boats used for navigation enforcement and boating education on Iowa’s waterways. The additional revenues continue to enable these vessels to be replaced generally on a 3-5 year maximum schedule.

In Fiscal Year 2008 the Department purchased 1 large patrol boat at a cost of \$26,740.

<b>Patrol Boats Expenditures</b>			
	FY06	FY07	FY08
228 Edgewater patrol boat		\$47,604	
242 Sportfish patrol boat		\$62,968	
1800 Pro V patrol boat		\$26,836	
1800 Pro V patrol boat		\$31,904	
220 Bay	\$43,285		
Tundra 21	\$21,897		
Stratos 386 XF patrol boat			\$26,740
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$65,182</b>	<b>\$169,312</b>	<b>\$26,740</b>

**Boater Education**

A Boating Education Coordinator was hired due to the registration fee increase. Prior to the increase, the Department was unable to provide the staff and attention needed to advance the education program. The DNR relied heavily on other organizations and a handful of employees with a passion for boater education to carry the program. The Iowa DNR is now able to be proactive regarding boater education, instead of playing catch up on important trends and safety issues. The following expenditures were from the boat registration fee increase revenues.



<b>Boater Education Expenditures</b>			
	<b>FY2006</b>	<b>FY2007</b>	<b>FY2008</b>
Salary (Boater Education Coordinator)	\$0	\$48,353	\$69,738
Vehicle Operating Expenses	\$0	\$6,134	\$6,134
Office Equipment	\$0	\$4,898	\$444
Education Supplies	\$0	\$640	\$8,231
Clothing Allowance	\$0	\$350	\$350
Travel expenses	\$0	\$2,479	\$4,239
Novelty items with boater education messages	\$0	\$11,170	\$0
Incentive awards for volunteer instructors	\$0	\$1,610	\$0
Educational materials	\$0	\$5,957	\$14,505
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$81,591</b>	<b>103,641</b>

Nationally, Boating Law Administrators and Education Coordinators focus on helping boaters understand and realize the importance of wearing life jackets. The Iowa legislature, after 5 years of effort, passed a child safety law in 2008 requiring children under 13 to wear a PFD in a moving vessel. The education program created and distributed 500 “Wear it” signs to be placed at each boat ramp located in Iowa. The 12 x 12 aluminum signs were given to state park personal and Corp of Engineer facilities who attached the signs on or near the ramps. The conservation officers also worked with cities, towns and wildlife areas to ensure that those signs were placed at the remaining boat ramps through out Iowa.



Boater Education Certifications		
Year	Students Certified	# of Classes
1999	681	14
2000	629	31
2001	349	13
2002	462	15
2003	1711	19
2004	1468	20
2005	1088	22
2006	545	17
2007	2298	29
2008	1964	38

### Life Jackets

Volunteer instructors are vital to the continued success of the boater education program. Their commitment, passion and dedication to the program enables the Department to offer quality education courses to the citizens of Iowa.

The boater education program is fortunate to continue its partnership with the United States Coast Guard Auxiliary and United States Power Squadron in teaching classroom courses for boaters. Even though the Department offers a home-study and internet course, learning in a classroom setting has been the preferred method of teaching among educators.

The program purchased 13 life jacket education kits and provided them to DNR District Offices, Coast Guard Auxiliary members and United States Power Squadron members for distribution. The kits are available statewide and can be used by park staff, county conservation board staff, and volunteer instructors to visually show the different models/styles of life jackets on the market. Each kit contains 12 different types of jacket, ranging from float coats, children's styles, type IV throwables devices, near shore jackets, offshore jackets, and type V specialty life jackets. These kits are invaluable to show people that life jackets are now made to be comfortable and easily worn.



The inflatable buoyant life jacket is the newest design of life jackets approved by the United States Coast Guard and available to the public. The Department also purchased 13 Inflatable life jacket kits to be distributed to District Offices, Coast Guard Auxiliary and United States Power Squadron members as teaching aids. The inflatable jacket comes in comfortable styles and designs that make

recreationalist even more apt to actually wear the life jacket when on the water. The kits were created by the National Safe boating Council and include 4 different styles of inflatable life jackets, CO2 replaceable cartridges and an easy to follow teaching guide. Being able to educate the public about these new life jackets is an invaluable tool for saving lives. "Life jackets don't save lives if they are not worn!"

## Water Trails and Low-head Dam Public Hazard Program

The Iowa DNR water trails and low-head dam public hazard program works statewide to ensure improved navigational safety on waterways throughout Iowa. This is achieved through public education and by developing consistently signed water trails, a warning signage system, navigation maps, accesses, and portage trails around dangerous dams.



*Naturalists training at a DNR 2-Day Canoe School.*

The Iowa DNR provides funds for and encourages local ownership of water trails throughout Iowa.

The program serves a growing segment of boat users – canoeists and kayakers, as well as more traditional recreational segments, including anglers and powerboaters. National statistics show that canoeists and kayakers have a higher rate of death per capita compared to other boaters. Two brochures, “SmartStart for Safe Paddling” and “The Drowning Machine” continue to be disseminated to county recorders, boat rental facilities, paddling clubs, local governments, and field staff. This fiscal year, the water trails program began designing “Expedition and Fishing Guides” for whole river systems. The first two completed were for the Maquoketa and Raccoon river systems. Printing is paid for cooperatively with the fisheries bureau, and the brochure maps are being disseminated in cooperation with Iowa Welcome Centers, county

conservation boards, and state parks and fish hatcheries.

New for fiscal year 2008, American Canoe Association-certified staff and contractors began training naturalists and other staff for county conservation boards, DNR, and other agencies, as well as trip leaders for other groups. This responded to a need identified in an Iowa Association of Naturalists survey. Numerous agencies have canoe fleets, but there has been a gap in consistent training for leading safe tours, developing risk management plans, and demonstrating appropriate canoeing skills. A training for canoe liveries using the Professional



*A volunteer landscaper works on a portage trail at the Fraser Dam area.*

Paddlesports Association training materials was also held in April in order to promote safe, responsible enjoyment of streams and lakes.

Iowa DNR owns or manages seven major dams on navigable streams. As the DNR began encouraging other entities to develop warning signage and portages, a responsibility emerged to provide adequate warning signage, constructed portages, and to maintain portages. A construction technician was hired to plan, develop, and maintain warning signage plans and portage trails, including launches and landings, around these dams. The construction technician also advises other communities on similar projects at their dams and on water trails for budget and conservation oriented access types known as “low impact” accesses. In some cases, Eagle Scouts and other volunteers have led the actual development of these projects. A seasonal assistant was also hired, but worked limited hours during FY2008 due to flooding.



*Volunteers constructed canoe-in campsites at Yellow River State Forest in October 2007.*

Half of the time of one other FTE was added in order to develop and maintain the GIS mapping coverages of accesses and navigable routes statewide, provide technical assistance for locally developed water trails, and assist with training programs. The other half of this position focuses on the Protected Water Areas program, a land conservation program along rivers, and is not within the purview of this report. Two interns assisted with the initial development and verification of the GIS coverages.

<b>Water trails and dam safety a glance</b>			
	<b>2006</b>	<b>2007</b>	<b>2008</b>
Total number of individual water trails with state designation, to date	0	3	5
Miles of water trails complete	0	70	166.5
Number of low-head dams with standard warning signage, to date	2	19	27
Dam-related deaths, calendar year	2	6	0
Number of maintained portage trails around low-head dams completed, to date	2	8	20
Number of low-head dams modified or removed for safety purposes, to date	0	1	1

The program is currently working in more than 25 counties with than 900 miles of water trails under active development in 25 counties, in addition to the 166.5 miles already designated. Three water trails with a total of 70 miles of trail have been completed and officially designated by the state.

Other benefits of the water trails program include:

- Wearing life jackets and low-head dam safety demonstrations with a pump-driven low-head dam model were presented at 5 events, including the Iowa Children's Water Festival.
- Warning signs benefit all river users.
- Volunteers have participated in projects including portage construction, dam-safety outreach, and canoe-campsite construction.

### Program outlook

The Iowa General Assembly amended Chapter 464A to require the Department to create a low-head dam public hazard program, and to conduct a statewide planning effort for water trails and low-head dams to begin July 1 2008. This will result in a focused set of priorities for the water trails and low-head dam public hazard program, an updated inventory of dams on navigable streams statewide, and water trails development manual.

<b>Boat Fee Sourced Expenditures for Water Trails &amp; Dam Safety</b>			
	<b>FY06</b>	<b>FY07</b>	<b>FY08</b>
Personnel	\$7,572	\$45,943	\$71,147
Travel Expenses	\$1,038	\$1,980	\$4,728
State Vehicle Operation & Depreciation			\$9,457
Office Supplies		\$1,330	\$1,932
Facility Maintenance Supplies			\$4,960
Equipment Maintenance Supplies		\$2,568	\$3,093
Other Supply (training programs equipment, safety education & outreach materials)		\$1,824	\$2,011
Print and binding	\$1,800	\$3,010	\$1,124
Uniforms (including winter work gear)			\$1,050
Postage			\$9
Communications			\$803
Rentals (meeting room, large equipment, canoe)			\$349
Outside services (consultants, instructors, promotions, contractors)		\$2,000	\$5,695
Reimbursement & ITS Reimbursement			\$729
Equipment Inventoriable (trailers, gator, computers)			\$17,635
Equipment Non Inventoriable			\$1,379
Indirects			\$9,519
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$10,410</b>	<b>\$58,655</b>	<b>\$135,621</b>



**Boating Recreation  
Infrastructure Maintenance  
and Management**

The Iowa DNR owns or manages infrastructure for boating recreation across the state. This infrastructure is integral to safe boating and access to the waters.



The Law Enforcement Bureau and the Fisheries Bureau do not typically manage land and do not have the staff for this type of maintenance and management. The Wildlife Bureau staff manages and maintains state fishing access areas, boat ramps and docks in cooperation with other bureaus. Responsibilities include supplying the labor and equipment to maintain and manage hundreds of boat ramps and the associated parking lots across the state; maintaining 49 boat docks; providing and maintaining directional, safety and usage signage for these public sites; and contracting with private vendors when appropriate.

Boating populations, including paddlers, have increased over the years and there is an ever-growing demand for safe, convenient and appropriate boating access areas. Maintenance and management needs have increased, especially when dealing with vandalism and littering.

<b>Boat Fee Expenditures for Boating Infrastructure Maintenance and Management</b> (Salaries for labor, contracted services, equipment, signage, publications)			
	<b>Federal</b>	<b>Boat Fees</b>	<b>Total</b>
FY06	\$749,405	\$266,468	\$1,015,873
FY07	\$777,505	\$275,835	\$1,053,340
FY08	\$904,831	\$301,610	\$1,206,441

## IOWA'S MARINE FUEL TAX (MFT) PROGRAM

The DNR Marine Fuel Tax program is not directly tied to the boat fee revenues and expenditures, but it is a complimentary program. MFT has played a vital role in providing recreational boaters new opportunities as well as maintaining public lakes used by boaters.



- **Revenue from the excise tax on the sale of motor fuel used in watercraft**
  - The amount of revenue generated by the marine fuel tax legislation equals nine-tenths of one percent of the state excise tax on gas, minus 3% of the marine fuel tax total for administrative costs and minus the amount refunded to commercial fishers based on the gallons of fuel they used.
- **MFT funds are leveraged with a variety of sources including Federal Coast Guard, Corps of Engineers Section 1135, State of Iowa Parks and Institutional Roads Fund, and local city and county conservation funds.**
- **Annual MFT funding historically ranges from \$2.2 to \$2.7 million.**
- **MFT funds are appropriated to the DNR to support and enhance recreational boating. Funded projects may include but are not limited to:**
  1. Dredging and renovation of lakes of this state.
  2. Acquisition, development, and maintenance of access to public boating waters.
  3. Development and maintenance of boating facilities and navigation aids.
  4. Administration, operation, and maintenance of recreational boating activities.
  5. Acquisition, development, and maintenance of recreational facilities associated with recreational boating.
- **Examples of MFT projects:**
  - ◆ Storm Lake (Buena Vista Co.) marina upgrade & expansion
  - ◆ Summerset State Park (Warren Co.) boat ramps and bathrooms
  - ◆ Lower Gar Lake (Dickinson Co.) outlet repair
  - ◆ Village Creek Access (Allamakee Co., Mississippi River) channel dredging
- **DNR Water Recreation Access Cost-Share Program**
  - ◆ Around \$200,000 of MFT funds are available in the form of grants to local cities and counties for boat access facilities to lakes and streams
  - ◆ Projects are funded 75% state to 25% local match
  - ◆ DNR receives grant requests for 15 to 30 projects and awards amounts usually between \$2,000 and \$50,000